

The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA) was signed into law on October 21, 1998. The WHCRA requires group health plans that provide coverage for mastectomies to also provide coverage for reconstructive surgery and prostheses following mastectomies.

Because your group health plan offers coverage for mastectomies, WHCRA applies to your plan. The law mandates that a participant who is receiving benefits, on or after the law's effective date, for a covered mastectomy and who elects breast reconstruction in connection with the mastectomy will also receive coverage for:

1. Reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed
2. Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance; and
3. Prosthesis and treatment of physical complications of all stages of mastectomy, including lymphedemas

This coverage will be provided in consultation with the patient and the patient's attending physician and will be subject to the same annual deductible, coinsurance and/or copayment provisions otherwise applicable under the policy/plan.

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